Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/828,466	JOHNSON, MICHAEL R.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Zachary C. Tucker	1624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *125-201*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Preliminary Amendment

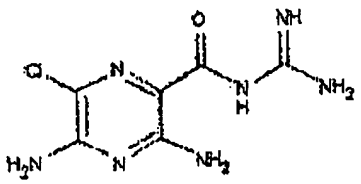
Preliminary amendments filed by applicant 21 April 2004 and 4 November 2004, to the claims and specification, have been entered as requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

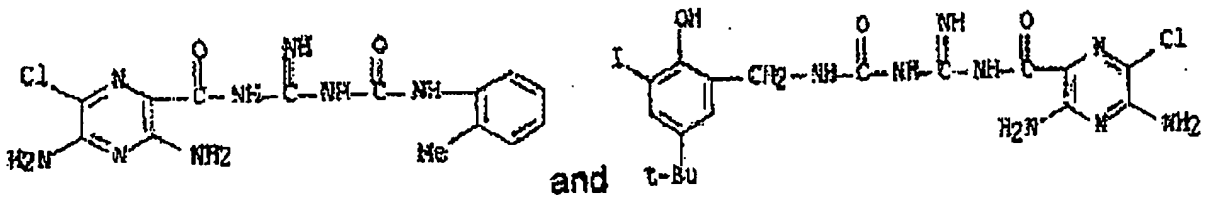
Claims 125-201 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Compounds according to the instant claims are not known from the prior art, nor is there any teaching in the prior art which would render it obvious to make such compounds. Thus, the compositions and method according to the present invention are novel and similarly unobvious. Formula (I) compounds according to the instant claims are based on a core structural motif which is derived from the sodium channel blocking diuretic drug commonly known as "amiloride," which is known from US 3,313,813 (Cragoe, Jr.). Amiloride has the structure shown:

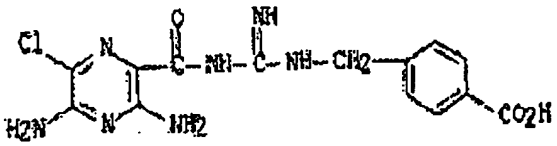


Derivatives of amiloride have been reported in the literature wherein the guanidyl $-NH_2$ group is functionalized with phenyl groups, wherein the phenyl is further substituted with halogen, methyl or amino groups. Such compounds, for example, are known from US 4,085,211 (Cragoe, Jr. et al), which describes compounds of the following structures:

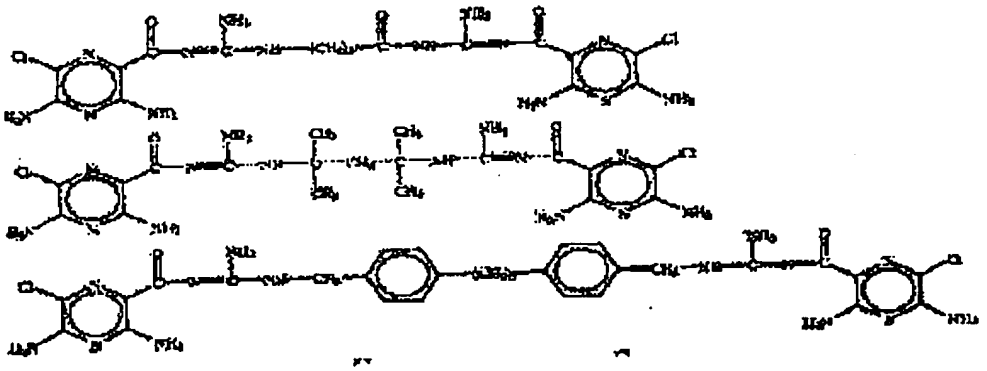


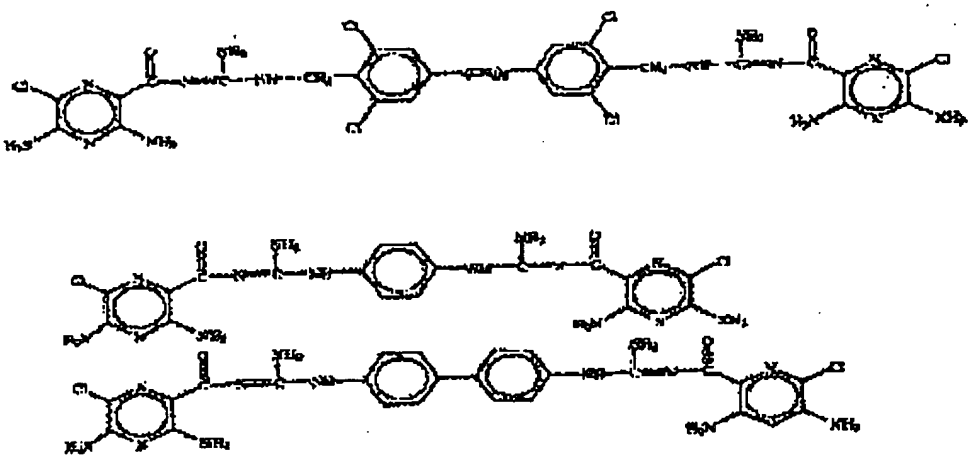
and

One functionalized derivative of amiloride, wherein the guanidine group is substituted with a benzyl group, and the benzyl group is further is substituted with carboxylic acid group was reported in Kleyman et al, "Distinct epitopes on amiloride. II. Variably restricted epitopes defined by monoclonal anti-amiloride antibodies" American Journal of Physiology, vol. 260(2, Pt. 1), pages C271-C276 (1991). The compound has this structure:



US 6,475,509 (Boucher, Jr. et al) is pertinent for its disclosure of *bis*-amiloride compounds having the following structural formulae, none of which is within the scope of any of the presently allowed claims:

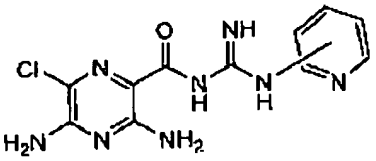




Another particularly pertinent disclosure is Velly et al, "Effects of amiloride and its analogues on [3H]batrachotoxinin-A 20-α benzoate binding, [3H]tetracaine binding and 22 Na influx" European Journal of Pharmacology, vol. 149, no- 1-2, 1988, pages 97-105. Velly et al reports several derivatives of amiloride which are not disclosed in any of the other references, cited hereinabove. Structures of these compounds are shown in Table I on page 99 of the reference. Velley et al teach a number of alkylphenyl-guanidine derivatives along the lines of the above-cited Kleyman et al article.

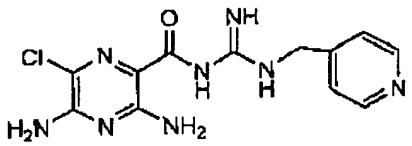
The compounds described in the allowed claims are different from all of those described in the preceding, most notably because the derivitizations of the guanidyl $-NH_2$ group is a pyridazine, pyrimidine or pyrazine ring containing element. Two of the variables "Q" in the formula (A) specified in instant claim 125 must be a nitrogen atom. The ring structure containing two nitrogen atoms in the compounds according to the instant claims must be substituted with one R^5, which is selected from a large group of fairly complicated moieties.

US 4,264,406 (Cragoe, Jr. et al) teaches a series of heterocyclically substituted amiloride derivatives, wherein the guanidyl $-NH_2$ is bonded to a heterocyclic ring of varying identities. In the examples is described two compounds following structural formula shown:

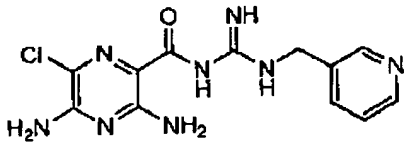


(where pyridyl is bonded *via* 2- and 3-positions)

Cocks et al, "Amiloride analogues cause endothelium-dependent relaxation in the canine coronary artery *in vitro*; possible role of Na^+/Ca^{2+} exchange" British Journal of Pharmacology, vol. 95(1), pages 67-76 (1988) reports a compound represented by the diagram below:



A structural isomer of the compound depicted in the immediately preceding paragraph, wherein the pyridine ring is bonded *via* the 3-position instead of the 4-position, whose structure is shown below, is disclose in many patents and scientific journal articles, by many inventors and researchers:



This compound is disclosed in US 3,573,306 (Shepard et al), US 3,539,569 (Tull and Pollack), US 3,472,848 (Cragoe, Jr. et al), and in many other patents and non-patent literature.

Though heteroaryl-alkyl substituted amiloride derivatives like those described herein are known, none of the references disclose a compound whose structure comprises an element corresponding to the "Q" containing ring in formula (A) of instant claim 125, where two "Q" variables must be nitrogen. The aforementioned R^5 variable in the formula (I) of instant claim 125 further provides for novelty and unobviousness over the prior art.

Applicant has been granted one other U.S. patent related to the instant application, wherein the "Q"-containing ring comprises two nitrogen atoms – US 7,026,325. Upon review of the claims in that patent, it is apparent that there is no overlap between the compounds of the patent and those according to the instant claims, because the substituents on the "Q"-containing ring are different.

The R^5's of the instant claims are different from the R^5's of the claims of US 7,026,325.

Insofar as applicant's several other issued U.S. patents disclosing and claiming sodium channel blocker compounds based on the same core amiloride motif, none of those patents poses any double patenting issues with respect to the instant claims, although the language of the method claims in these issued patents is the same, the compounds with which the methods are practiced are different. There is no overlap between any of the instantly claimed subject matter and subject matter claimed in applicant's other patents in the present series.

These issued patents are:

The therapeutic utility of the compounds according to the instant claims is mediated by sodium channel blockade due to the compounds' sodium channel blocking effect. Blockade of sodium channels causes an increase in mucous clearance and increased hydration.

Claim 200 is drawn to a multiple active ingredient pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to instant claim 125 and a bronchodilator. One of ordinary skill in the medicinal chemistry arts was well-aware of which compounds the term "bronchodilator" embraced at the time the invention was made.

This reference:

Kellerman, D. "P2Y2 Receptor Agonists. A New Class of Medication Targeted at Improved Mucociliary Clearance" Chest, vol. 121(5), supplement, pages 201S-205S.

Has been cited by the examiner to show that one of ordinary skill understood at the time the invention was made the scope of claim 199, drawn to another multiple active ingredient pharmaceutical composition, wherein a compound according to instant claim 125 is in combination with a P2Y2 agonist.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

All Post-Allowance Correspondence concerning this application must be mailed to:

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or you can fax them to the Office of Patent Publications at 703-872-9306, in order to expedite the handling of such correspondence as amendments under 37 CFR 1.312; information disclosure statements, and formal drawings. Sending Post-Allowance papers to Technology Center 1600 will only cause delays in matching papers with the case.

For information concerning status of correspondence sent after receipt of the Notice of Allowance, please contact the Correspondence Branch at (703) 305-8027. The Notice of Allowance also has an insert containing contact information on other items, including Issue Fees, receipt of formal drawings and the status of the application.

Zachary C. Tucker
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1624